NOTE XI.

ON EGGS OF SOME BRITISH GUYANA BIRDS [1]

BY

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1. *Troglodytes furvus* (Gm.).
Wren.

They build their nests, of straw and feathers, on the beams about houses, and in empty bottles and drain-pipes which are hung up under the verandah-roof for their special use.

They lay four eggs.

The egg — 18 mm. by 12 mm. — is white, thickly marked with red-brown.

They hatch from January to June. — One egg (N°. 20).

2. *Tanagra episcopus* L.
Blue Sackie.

The nest is open, like a cup, and is composed of grass lined with bamboo-leaves and the thread from the cocoa-nut-palm: sometimes small sticks and pieces of cotton are used to make up the outside. They build on low trees or in shrubs.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 25 mm. by 18 mm. — is a light blue-grey covered over with dark and light brown marks and spots;

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[1] This Note may be considered a continuation of a previous paper of this kind (N. L. M. 1889, p. 145) wherein Dr. Young described nests and eggs of a series of British Guyana Birds. The eggs mentioned in the present Note under the various numbers, as well as some birds skins belonging to these eggs, are all presented by that Author to the Leyden Museum. J. BÜTTIKOFER.

some eggs have in addition black spots here and there.

They hatch from February to July. — Two eggs (N°. 25).

3. *Tanagra palmarum* Max.
Cocoa-nut Sackie.

The nest is like a cup and is built of small sticks and roots on the cocoa-nut- and other palms, and sometimes on shrubs.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 27 mm. by 19 mm. — is pink white, spotted with dark red-brown and grey: there is a band of spots round the egg near its large diameter.

They hatch in February, March and April. — One egg (N°. 26).

4. *Ostinops decumanus* (Pall.).
Bunyah.

They make a pendant nest about four, sometimes five, feet long, shaped like a club with a long handle, in colonies, from the extremities of the branches of palms or of tall forest-trees, of the stems of vines, coarse and fine grass, and of the fibres from the cocoa-nut-palm, and they line the bottom of the nest with leaves. The place of entrance is a small oval hole in the narrow part of the nest near its attachment to the branch. As the young get strong they make a second place of entrance near the bottom of the nest. The nest is completed in about fourteen days. They generally build on the lee side of the tree, and over water, not because they get any protection from the water, but because in the thick forest that is the only side of the tree they are able to build on. The young when hatched are naked and very helpless.

They lay two eggs.

The eggs vary much in length, being from 40 mm. to 35 mm. by 25 mm.; they are rosy white, thickly marked with violet-red.

They hatch in January, February and March. — Two eggs (N°. 27).

5. *Molothrus atronitens* Cab.

Lazy Bird.

They lay one egg in the nest of other birds, especially in the nest of the wren (*Troglodytes furvus*): frequently the egg is found in the nest of the yellow-headed rice bird (*Xanthosomus icterocephalus*) which builds in the open fields.

The egg — 20 mm. by 17 mm. — is pink white, thickly marked with grey; many of the marks have a pink tinge. — One egg (N°. 21).

6. *Xanthosomus icterocephalus* (L.).

Yellow-headed Rice Bird.

They make an open nest, in colonies, on the rushes in the swamps, or on the stems of growing rice, of pieces of the leaves of the sugar-cane or of rice-straw; the nest is held up by being built round the stems of three or four of these water-plants, near their top.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 22 mm. by 16 mm. — is a light greenish blue, marked with black and light grey spots and lines: many of the spots end in lines.

They hatch from February to June. — One egg (N°. 28).

7. *Leistes guianensis* (L.).

Red-breast.

They build an open nest of grass, on the ground, on open fields.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 21 mm. by 16 mm. — is white, thickly covered with light violet-red marks.

They hatch from January to June. — One egg (N°. 30).

8. *Quiscalus lugubris* Sw.

Boat-tailed Gracle.

The nest is open and very deep, and is built of rushes on the low shrubs found on the open savannahs. They build in colonies.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 26 mm. by 19 mm. — is grey-green, marked with black and purple irregular lines and dots.

They hatch in March, April and May. — One egg (N°. 29).

These birds when flying a short distance, open their tails vertically and use it like the rudder of a boat, but if they fly far they open this rudder-like tail from above, so that it forms two plains meeting below at a small angle.

9. *Todirostrum cinereum* (L.).

Pipitoorie.

They make an oval, hanging nest of grass, hair, and the cotton from the seeds of plants on the end of the branches of tall trees, or on the trailing branches of vines. The place of entrance is an oval hole in the side of the nest and it is protected by an overhanging roof.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 17 mm. by 10 mm. — is a long oval, and it is pure white.

They hatch from March to July. — One egg (N°. 23).

10. *Myiozetetes cayennensis* (L.).

Small Kiskadie.

They make a domed nest of grass on the outer branches of low, or of moderately high trees, resembling the nest of *Pitangus sulphuratus* (L.), only smaller; the place of entrance is in the side of the nest. Outside the nest is very rough and ragged, but inside it is quite the contrary.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 25 mm. by 16 mm. — long and sharp pointed, is pink white, with red-brown spots and blotches, especially on the large end and round the large diameter.

They hatch from January to June. — One egg (N°. 22).

11. *Tyrannus melancholicus* Vieill.

They make a nest, like a cup, of small sticks lined with grass and the leaves of the bamboo, on the outer branches of moderately high trees.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 26 mm. by 20 mm. — is greenish white, with red-brown and light brown markings over its entire surface. The eggs in the same nest vary much as regards size, brightness of colour, and number of marks.

They hatch from January to June. — One egg (N°. 24).

12. *Symallaxis cinnamomea* (Gm.).
Rootie.

The nest is built of small sticks in the centre of low bushes, and it is many times the size of the bird. The shape of the nest is a long oval, and it rests horizontally in the tree, one of the ends being in the middle of the bush, while the other end reaches to almost its outer margin. The place of entrance is in the top of the outermost end of this oval mass, and its direction is at first downwards and then straight inwards to the other end where the nest proper is. This passage is formed by an archway of small sticks placed on end and meeting above. Where the eggs rest there is usually a lump of clay holowed out and lined with grass.

They lay four eggs.

The egg — 19 mm. by 15 mm. — is white, with a slight blue tinge and has no marks.

They hatch in May and June. — Three eggs (N°. 33).

13. *Dendrornis pardalota* (Vieill.).
Carpenter Bird.

They lay their eggs in holes, made by the bird itself, in the rotten wood of trees, especially in the Oronoque-tree, Sandcocer-tree, *Erythrina glauca*, the rotten wood being very soft. Sometimes they build in other places. The egg sent was taken, along with two others, out of an old cassava press, a hollow tube of basket work, which had been thrown into a tree.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 26 mm. by 20 mm. — is white.

They hatch in May and June. — One egg (N°. 34).

The egg of this bird resembles the egg of the woodpecker, not only by being white but also by having the same hard-looking white gloss.

14. *Rosthramus sociabilis* (Vieill.).
Cricketa Hawk.

They build a flat nest of sticks, in colonies, on moderately high trees in the interior about the head-waters of the creeks.

They lay three eggs.

The egg — 42 mm. by 33 mm. — is greenish white, blotched and spotted with dark brown, or light brown marks, no two eggs being marked alike, some have very few marks while others are so covered that the ground colour of the egg is hidden.

They hatch in April and May. — Two eggs (N°. 39).

After the breeding season these hawks separate and scatter all over the colony where there is fresh, still water, where they catch the fresh water-snail, called cricketa, on which they live. They lift this snail out from among the water-plants by their feet, as other hawks lift birds, but when they get clear of the water-plants, they, while on the wing, take the shell from their feet and carry it in their bill to one particular dry branch where they eat the snail: below this branch one can find a pile of empty shells.

15. *Cathartes aura* (L.).
Red-headed Carrion Crow.

The nests of these birds are very hard to find although the bird itself is plentiful. They make a flat nest of sticks on the ground, or inside hollow trees, especially the hollow stem of the cabbage-palm: one nest was found inside the withered body of a dead cow.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 77 mm. by 50 mm. — is greenish white, marked with dark brown or light brown, large and small spots: the large spots form a ring round the egg near its large end.

They hatch in January, February and March. — One egg (N°. 41).

This vulture is called red-headed to distinguish it from the black-headed variety, but its head is not always red, as frequently they are seen with the head a dirty grey, especially on a wet day.

16. *Cathartes atratus* (Bartram).

Black-headed Carrion Crow.

They build a flat nest of sticks on the ground at the foot of some tree, or inside hollow trees, either forest-trees or palms, or among the dry leaves of the sugar-cane where these are left between the rows of growing canes.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 65 mm. by 45 mm. — is brownish white, marked with dark, dirty brown spots. There is one large splash of the same colour on one side of the egg near its large end.

They hatch in January, February and March. — One egg (N°. 40).

17. *Ardea agami* Gm.

King of the Herons.

Their nests are flat and composed of sticks. They build, in colonies along with the other small herons, on low trees. Some years ago they were in the habit of building in the young Courida-trees, *Avicennia nitida*, along the sea-shore, and at the mouth of the Berbice River, now they are never seen there, having migrated to more lonely places in the marshes of the interior, where they collect in large numbers in the breeding season. I have known a tub full of their eggs to be collected at one time.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 52 mm. by 38 mm. — is greenish blue.

They hatch in April, May and June. — One egg (N°. 36).

18. *Dendrocygna discolor* Scl. & Salv.
Wiscissi Duck.

They build a flat nest of sticks and grass, among the reeds and rushes, near the river-sides or in the swamps, in quiet places. Sometimes they build in low trees and in the hollow stump of dead palms, *Mauritia flexuosa.*

They lay four eggs.

The egg — 52 mm. by 35 mm. — is white.

They hatch in August. — One egg (N°. 37).

19. *Columba rufina* Temm.
Pigeon.

They build, in colonies, flat nests of sticks on moderately high trees in lonely places, either on the margin of the creeks, or in the trees which grow at the back of the savannahs. Isolated nests have been found on trees close to houses.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 35 mm. by 28 mm. — is white.

They hatch in March and in August. — One egg (N°. 32).

20. *Chamaepelia griseola* (Spix).
Ground Dove.

They make a flat nest of sticks and grass on the ground or in low bushes. When they build on the ground the nest is composed principally of grass and it is deeper than the nest they make in bushes.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 25 mm. by 17 mm. — is white.

They hatch in January, February and March, but their nests have been found in August. — One egg (N°. 31).

21. *Crax alector* L.

Powis.

They build an open nest of grass, on the ground, under the shelter of low bushes, in the interior.

They lay two eggs.

The egg — 83 mm. by 60 mm. — is white; it is covered with a rough coating of small elevations.

They hatch in March and April. — One egg (N°. 38).

22. *Porphyrio martinicus* (L.).

Blue Coot.

The nest is flat and is built of small sticks and of grass among the tall water-plants which grow in the swamps: rarely they build on low bushes. The egg sent was taken, with four others, out of a nest built in a coffee-tree.

They lay six eggs.

The egg — 50 mm. by 32 mm. — is pink white, covered, especially about the large end, with light grey and light brown spots.

They hatch in May, June and July. — One egg (N°. 35).

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